The reevaluation process, called a Record of Decision (ROD) Amendment, involved screening potential waste treatment technologies and selecting a new cleanup plan. During the ROD Amendment process, Fernald worked with stakeholders to formulate a strategy to accelerate waste retrieval from the aging silos. By accelerating this phase of the project, Fernald will reduce risks associated with prolonged storage and position the project for final remediation.

In 1999, Fluor Fernald awarded a contract for the Accelerated Waste Retrieval (AWR) Project. Within months, workers initiated construction of four 750,000-gallon transfer tanks, where the waste will be temporarily staged until final disposition, and the Radon Control System, which will reduce radon gas in the silos headspaces.

In 2000, after a thorough review process incorporating independent analysis by industry specialists, DOE, regulators and stakeholders agreed upon a new cleanup plan for Silos 1 and 2. The plan entails chemically stabilizing the waste to decrease the moisture content and reduce its leachability before shipping it to a licensed off-site disposal facility. Jacobs Engineering will perform engineering and design work for the project. Fluor Fernald will manage construction and direct operations, transportation and shipment activities.

"FERNALD IS SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE CLEANUP OF SILOS 1 AND 2 IN 2006."

PHOTO: Four transfer tanks will temporarily store Silo 1 and 2 waste before it is treated, packaged and shipped (7385-D2069).

In 2001, after negotiating a contract termination agreement with the subcontractor, Fluor Fernald also assumed management responsibility for the AWR Project. As a result, Fluor will self-perform the design, construction, testing and operation of the waste retrieval and transfer tank systems under its closure contract. Following an in-depth project engineering assessment, Fluor made several design changes that will simplify and streamline the waste retrieval approach. As soon as construction crews complete the storage and material handling facilities, workers will begin using a remote-controlled sluicing system to retrieve the waste.

Fernald continues to work with stakeholders to expedite start-up of waste retrieval, treatment and disposal operations, and is scheduled to complete cleanup of Silos 1 and 2 in 2006.

For more information

Visit the Public Environmental Information Center on site, open Tuesdays and Thursdays
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